

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IOE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 SAJ-01 ACDA-05 /093 W

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P R 031855Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7486

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY DOHA

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 03363

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR US CN FR

SUBJECT: COMORO ISLANDS REPRESENTATIVE CALLS AT  
EMBASSY

REF: STATE 025497

SUMMARY: COMORO ISLANDS ROVING AMBASSADOR HAS TRANSMIT-  
TED REQUEST THAT US RECOGNIZE THE NEW STATE. HE SAID  
HIS GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS MAYOTTE REFERENDUM ILLEGAL, AND  
HAS SUSPENDED RELATIONS WITH FRANCE AS A RESULT. HE  
CONFIRMED REPORTS THAT GOF HAS WITHDRAWN ALL TECHNICAL  
SERVICES FROM THREE ISLANDS THAT DECLARED INDEPENDENCE.  
HE WILL BE MAKING SWING THROUGH PERSIAN GULF TO SEEK  
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM BROTHER MUSLIM COUNTRIES.  
HE SAID COMORO GOVERNMENT WOULD BE WILLING TO HAVE US  
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MILITARY AIRCRAFT UTILIZE ITS FACILITIES FOR TRANSIT

STOPS IF REQUIRED. END SUMMARY.

1. EMBASSY RECEIVED CALL FEBRUARY 3 FROM MR. YVES LE BRET, WHO SHOWED CREDENTIALS AS AMBASSADOR AT LARGE FOR THE STATE OF THE COMORO ISLANDS. LE BRET WAS ACCOMPANIED BY MR. SULTAN CHOUZOUR, CHARGE D'AFFAIRES OF THE COMOROS MISSION TO FRANCE. CHOUZOUR WILL BE DEPARTING PARIS FEBRUARY 4 TO REPRESENT COMORO ISLANDS AT UN SECURITY COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS.

2. LE BRET SAID HE IS ONE OF THREE AMBASSADORS AT LARGE REPRESENTING COMOROS. HE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE WESTERN COUNTRIES. OTHER TWO AMBASSADORS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR SOCIALIST COUNTRIES AND AFRICA RESPECTIVELY. HIS OBJECTIVE IN CONTACTING EMBASSY WAS TO TRANSMIT REQUEST FROM HIS CHIEF OF STATE THAT UNITED STATES RECOGNIZE THE STATE OF THE COMORO ISLANDS "COMPLETELY IN ITS TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY." HE SAID THAT SEVERAL SOCIALIST COUNTRIES, INCLUDING USSR, EAST GERMANY AND PRC, HAVE ALREADY RECOGNIZED THE NEW STATE. EMBOFF SAID THAT THE REQUEST WOULD BE TRANSMITTED TO WASHINGTON.

3. ON THE SUBJECT OF RELATIONS WITH FRANCE, LE BRET SAID THAT THERE IS ONLY ONE ISSUE STANDING IN THE WAY OF NORMAL RELATIONS, THE MAYOTTE REFERENDUM. COMORO ISLANDS DOES NOT RECOGNIZE LEGALITY OF THE REFERENDUM BECAUSE THE POMPIDOU GOVERNMENT PLEDGED TO BRING THE FOUR ISLANDS OF THE COMOROS TO INDEPENDENCE AS A SINGLE ENTITY. BECAUSE OF THE REFERENDUM, FRENCH-COMORO RELATIONS ARE IN A STATE OF SUSPENSION. COMOROS HAVE ASKED SENEGAL TO REPRESENT THEIR INTERESTS IN FRANCE, AND PRESIDENT SENGHOR HAS AGREED. COMORO MISSION IN PARIS WILL BECOME INTERESTS SECTION IN SENEGALESE EMBASSY.

4. LE BRET SAID HE WOULD BE MAKING TWO-WEEK SWING

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INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 03363

THROUGH PERSIAN GULF STATES TO PLEAD FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM BROTHER MUSLIM STATES, AND TO PREPARE LATER VISIT BY HIGHER LEVEL DELEGATION. HE SAID FRENCH WITHDREW ALL TECHNICAL SERVICES FROM THE THREE ISLANDS THAT DECLARED INDEPENDENCE--TEACHERS, DOCTORS, AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS, AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS TECHNICIANS. MADAGASCAR HAS SENT THREE SPECIALISTS ON LOAN TO KEEP THE TELEPHONE SYSTEM OPERATING. HE SAID MORONI LYCEE HAD TO CLOSE AFTER ONLY ONE MONTH OF OPERATIONS BECAUSE GOF REMOVED THE TEACHERS.

5. AFTER CHOUZOUR LEFT TO PICK UP HIS VISA, LE BRET SAID HIS CHIEF OF STATE INSTRUCTED HIM TO INFORM USG THAT COMORO FACILITIES WOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR US  
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MILITARY AIRCRAFT TRANSITING THE AREA. ASKED TO BE MORE SPECIFIC, LE BRET SAID "REFUELING ON TECHNICAL STOPS." LE BRET FOLLOWED THAT BY SAYING PEOPLE OF COMOROS ARE MUSLIM AND THEREFORE ANTI-COMMUNIST. COMOROS ARE ON GOOD TERMS WITH MADAGASCAR, TANZANIA AND SOMALIA, BUT WISH TO BE NEUTRAL AND NOT IN THE RADICAL CAMP REPRESENTED BY THESE THREE COUNTRIES.

6. COMMENT: WE ARE UNABLE TO EVALUATE STATEMENTS ABOUT COMORO NEUTRALITY AND WILLINGNESS TO GRANT TRANSIT FACILITIES TO US MILITARY AIRCRAFT WHICH MUST BE SEEN

AGAINST BACKGROUND OF COMORO QUEST FOR RECOGNITION AND  
DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS TO INVALIDATE MAYOTTE REFERENDUM.  
WE CAN BE SURE OF ONE THING, HOWEVER. DIPLOMATIC RECOG-  
NITION IN CONTEXT OF COMORO REQUEST RELATED TO TERRI-  
TORIAL INTEGRITY OF THE ARCHIPELAGO WOULD BE INTERPRETED  
AS OUR CONCURRENCE IN THE OPINION THAT MAYOTTE REFEREN-  
DUM IS ILLEGAL.  
RUSH

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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